UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/66
29 January 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

# LETTER DATED 26 JANUARY 1996 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1037 (1996) of 15 January 1996, by which the Council established the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES), and to my report of 13 December 1995 (S/1995/1028).

It will be recalled that in my report I had recommended that a force of 9,300 combat troops would be necessary to ensure security in the region and to supervise demilitarization through a visible, credible presence. Given the number of troops and, therefore, the ability to deploy at many locations throughout the region, this concept did not require the deployment of United Nations military observers.

In its resolution 1037 (1996), the Security Council decided that the military component of UNTAES would consist of a force with an initial deployment of up to 5,000 troops. In view of the more limited presence of this smaller force, the Transitional Administrator and my military staff, both at Headquarters in New York and UNPF-HQ in Zagreb, have identified the need for 100 United Nations military observers for a period of six months in order to enable UNTAES to supervise and facilitate the demilitarization provided for in the Basic Agreement (A/50/757-S/1995/951, annex). The military observers would identify the units and equipment to be demilitarized and monitor and verify the implementation of the demilitarization undertaken by the parties. In addition, they would report on any developments relevant to the maintenance of peace and security in the region.

I agree with this recommendation of the Transitional Administrator and my military advisers and would, therefore, seek the authorization of the Security Council for the deployment of 100 United Nations military observers for six months. The financial implications of this request will be submitted to the Council in an addendum to the present letter.

I would appreciate your bringing the above request to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

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